



King County

Charter Review Commission

2007-2008

Draft Report Outline and Public Comment Period

Chinook Building, 1st Floor

5:00pm-8:00pm

March 25, 2008

Co-Chairs: Gov. Mike Lowry and Lois North

Recognizing Forty Years of Good Governance

Agenda

■ Public Hearings

- Schedule
- Commissioners/Chairs
- Status on Communication Plan

■ Public Hearing Presentation

Key Dates for Final Recommendations and Report

- March 19th – Email first draft of CRC Report to full commission
- **March 25th – Edits received from commissioners; Brief discussion on report at full commission meeting**
- March 26-28 – CRC staff incorporates commission edits into report
- April 1-4th – CRC staff distributes report to public via email and hard copy; public comment begins
- April 8-15th – Public Hearings
- April 22nd – Public comment ends; Commission meeting to discuss public comments, incorporate any changes to amendments
- April 24th – Final legal review of report and recommendations (PAO, Executive, and Council Staff)
- April 29th – Final CRC meeting
- May 15th – Completed report sent to Executive

Public Comment Period Meetings Schedule

West King County: Tuesday April 8, 6:30-8pm

The Hall at Fauntleroy

Emerald Room

9131 California Ave SW, Seattle WA, 98136

North King County: Thursday, April 10, 6:30-8pm

Shoreline Center

Conference Wing Room

Ranier Room

18560 1st Avenue NE, Shoreline WA, 98155

East King County: Monday, April 14, 6:30-8pm

Preston Community Center

Multipurpose Room

8625 310th Ave SE, Issaquah WA

South King County: Tuesday, April 15, 6:30-8pm

RiverRock Grille and Ale House

4050 Maple Valley Highway

Renton, WA 98058

Public Outreach Meetings

West King County:

Tuesday April 8, 6:30-8pm
The Hall at Fauntleroy, Emerald Room
9131 California Ave SW, Seattle, WA

Commissioners Attending:

- Allan Munro (Chair)
- Kirstin Haugen
- Dan Gandara
- Juan Bocanegra
- Terry Lavender
- Bryan Glynn
- Gregg Hirakawa
- Mike Wilkins
- Tara Jo Heinecke
- James Williams
- Trisha Bennett
- Gary Long
- Jim English
- Sharon Maeda
- Mike Lowry

Public Outreach Meetings

North King County:

Thursday April 10, 6:30-8pm
Shoreline Center, Rainier Room
18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline, WA

Commissioners Attending:

- Tara Jo Heinecke (Chair)
- Terry Lavender
- Bryan Glynn
- Mike Wilkins
- Doreen Cato
- John Jensen
- Mike Lowry

Public Outreach Meetings

East King County:

Monday April 14, 6:30-8pm
Preston Community Center
8625 310th Ave SE, Issaquah, WA

Commissioners Attending:

- Doreen Cato (Chair)
- Sarah Rindlaub
- Tara Jo Heinecke
- John Jensen
- Mike Lowry

Public Outreach Meetings

South King County:

Tuesday April 15, 6:30-8pm
RiverRock Grille and Ale House
4050 Maple Valley Highway, Renton WA

Commissioners Attending:

- John Jensen (Chair)
- Kirstin Haugen
- Gregg Hirakawa
- Tara Jo Heinecke
- Allan Munro
- Gary Long
- Mike Lowry

Update on Communications Plan

- Op-Ed by North/Lowry – Seattle Times, March 30
- Public Service Announcement on KCTV (North/Lowry)
- Press release to news outlets
- Blast emails will be sent to 600+ organizations & citizens, including elected officials, political parties, good government orgs
- Councilmembers will distribute information to their lists
- Charter and kingcounty.gov websites
- King County employee e-newsletter
- Flyers will be emailed to commissioners next week for distribution to constituents
- KCTV – ready for Shoreline and Renton hearings
- Report ready to be translated into Mandarin and Spanish

Public Hearing Presentation

The Charter Review Commission

- Introductions (commissioners, councilmember, staff)
- What is the Charter?
- About the Charter Review Commission
- Meet the commissioners: 21 members, representing each council district
- The commission's work:
 - Have outreached to hundreds of organizations, heard from many community groups at our meetings
 - Held 9 public meetings last summer
 - Listened to experts (gov't officials, professors, and community leaders on various issues)

Commissioners

Mike Lowry , of Renton, Former Governor –Co-chair (District 9)

Lois North , of Seattle, former King County Councilmember – Co-chair (District 4)

Trisha Bennett , of Federal Way, Vice President of Government Affairs, Bennett Forest Industries (District 7)

Juan Bocanegra , of Seattle, Community Activist, NW Empowerment Institute (District 2)

Doreen Cato , of Bellevue, Executive Director, First Place (District 6)

Jim English , of Vashon, President, Vashon -Maury Island Community Council (District 8)

Dan Gandara , of Seattle, Attorney, Vandeberg Johnson & Gandara; President, King County Bar Association (District 2)

Bryan Glynn , of Seattle, Legal Counsel for Cascade Land Conservancy (District 4)

Darcy Goodman , of Seattle, former King County District Court Judge (District 2)

John Groen , of Redmond, Attorney, Groen Stephens & Klinge LLP (District 3)

Kirstin Haugen , of Bothell, Account Executive, Mercury, L.L.C (District 1)

Tara Jo Heinecke , of Des Moines, Business Representative, Intl. Asso. of Theatrical and Stage Employees Local 15 (District 5)

Gregg Hirakawa , of Seattle, Deputy Director for External Relations, Washington State Bar Association (District 4)

John Jensen , of Newcastle, Past President, Newcastle Chamber of Commerce (District 9)

Terry Lavender , of Woodinville, Citizen Activist, King County Conservation Futures (District 3)

Gary Long , of Seattle, Former City Manager, Burien; Suburban Cities Association (District 8)

Sharon Maeda , President, Spectra Communications (District 8)

Allan Munro , of Seattle, Attorney (District 8)

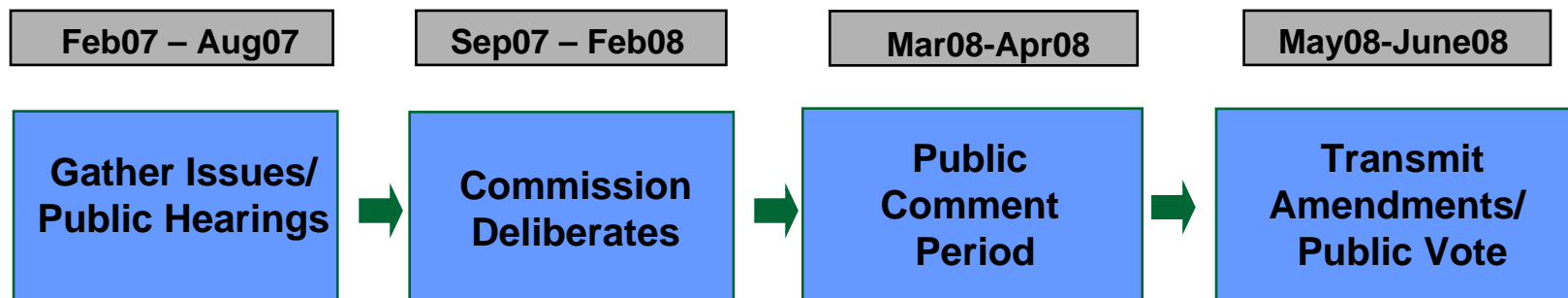
Sarah Rindlaub , of Mercer Island, Board Member , Washington Policy Center (District 6)

Mike Wilkins , of Seattle, former King County Deputy Assistant County Executive (District 4)

James Williams , of Federal Way, Attorney, Perkins Coie (District 7)



The Public's Role in the Process



1st phase: Commission collects issues from the public

2nd phase: Commission deliberates on issues and proposes charter amendments

3rd phase: Public comment on proposed amendments

4th phase: Finalized amendments sent to Council; Council-approved amendments to go to a vote of the people



2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Budget Timeline: *Section 410*

Provide the Council with 95 days to review the Executive's proposed budget, adding 20 days of additional review time

- Currently, the charter allows for 45 days for council review of the Executive's proposed budget.
- Given the county's size and the increasing complexity of the budget, the Council and the Executive support amending the charter to increase time for Council review.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Citizen Initiative: *Section 800*

Raise the number of signatures needed for citizens to initiate a charter amendment from 10% to 20%.

- The current 10% signature threshold is a default limit, the same as any other initiative. The charter is a constitution, and should not be so easily amended.
- A 20% limit allows citizens to change the charter, but not without considerable effort and support.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Commission Appointment Process: *Section 800*

Clarify the Charter Review Commission appointment and confirmation process

- Executive's appointments to the 2007-2008 Commission were not submitted to the Council for confirmation.
- This amendment clarifies that Commission appointments must be confirmed by the Council.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Council Action on Commission

Recommendations: *Section 800*

Require the county council to take action on all Commission recommendations

- There has been concern that the Council did not take a public vote on all of the recommended amendments of previous Commissions.
- This amendment would require the Council to take a vote on all Commission recommendations.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Elections Deadlines: *Sections 230, 800*

Extend the deadline for submitting local initiatives to the Elections Division from 45 to 84 days

- The Elections Division does not have enough time to prepare local initiatives for the ballot, given current deadlines.
- The State recently extended their deadline to submit initiative petitions from 45 to 84 days before an election. This amendment brings county deadlines into line with state law.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Open space: *New Section 897*

Add additional protection to over 100,000 acres of county-owned open space

- Would protect many high conservation value open spaces owned by the county from sale, transfer, or change of use. A majority vote of the people would be required to remove this protection.
- There would be no change in how the land is currently used, and no new land would be purchased under the amendment.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Qualifications: *Section 630*

Allow the Council to establish additional qualifications for the offices of Assessor and Elections Director

- This amendment is intended to provide for a more rigorous process for screening candidates for these positions, ensuring qualified candidates.
- An elected Elections Director position does not yet exist, but might after November 2008.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Regional Committees: *Section 270*

Reduce the number of councilmembers on Committees and increase the authority of non-council Committee members

- Councilmembers are unable to attend many Regional Committee meetings. Reduce the number of Council seats on each committee, while maintaining the voting balance among cities and the county.
- Establish Chair and vice-chair positions for each committee, with the vice-chair held by a city member.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Sheriff's Office: *Section 890*

Require the Executive to include the effective participation of separately elected county officials in collective bargaining

- Clarify the importance of elected officials' direct participation in the process of collective bargaining.
- While final authority for labor contracts is vested in the Executive, negotiations are to be conducted with substantive participation from elected officials whose employees are represented by a union.

2007-2008 Priority Charter Amendments

Unincorporated and Rural Area Representation: *Preamble and Sections 220, 320*

Create a high-level position within the Office of the Executive to represent the interests of rural and urban unincorporated area residents.

- Provide greater county commitment to the rural and urban unincorporated areas through a high-level Executive position, and oversight by the Council.
- Amend the Charter Preamble to reflect the county's commitment to unincorporated areas.

Other Amendments

- **Anti-Discrimination:** Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in county employment and contracting practices.
- **Budget Allotments:** With the advent of computerized bookkeeping, remove the requirement that county agencies submit estimates of spending to the Executive.
- **Transitory Provisions:** Remove Charter language pertaining solely to the county's transition to a Charter government and consolidation with Metro.

Other Amendments

King County Library System: *Non-charter recommendation*

Recommend that the Council, Executive and King County Library System Board of Trustees take specific actions to improve the library system's management and operation.

Please give us your comments!

- Speakers: 2-3 minute time limit per speaker
- Comment cards: fill out here or take home
- Submit comments on the web, by mail, or phone:
 - Web form: <http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/charter>
 - Email: charter.review@metrokc.gov
 - Phone: Mark Yango, Charter Review Coordinator:
(206) 296-4628

How to Give Feedback

End of Public Hearing Presentation